

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 DHA-02 /102 W

-----081453Z 095622 /53

R 081250Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6790

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 0574

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SWAPO PRESIDENT REITERATES TOUGH LINE

1. SUMMARY: SAM NUJOMA TOLD SOUTH AFRICAN REPORTER THAT HE WAS READY TO MEET VORSTER ON SAME BASIS STATED EARLIER. HE CALLED ON TURNHALLE DELEGATES TO DISSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM SAG EFFORT TO ESTABLISH INTERIM GOVERNMENT, SAID SWAPO WOULD EVENTUALLY WIN THE MILITARY STRUGGLE, AND DECLARED THAT WHILE SWAPO ACCEPTED DONATIONS AND SUPPLIES FROM SOV BLOC, SWAPO WAS MEMBER OF NO BLOC AND WOULD FOLLOW NEUTRAL NON-ALIGNED POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. VETAL REPORTER OF SOUTH WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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J.H.P. SERFONTEIN INTERVIEWED SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA FEBRUARY 4 IN MAPUTO WHEN NUJOMA ATTENDED FRELIMO CONGRESS. RAND DAILY MAIL ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEB 7 CITED NUJOMA AS SAYING HE PREPARED TO MEET VORSTER OR SAG DELEGATION AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA UNDER UN AUSPICES. NUJOMA REITERATED THREE CONDITIONS FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE. (A) SAG MUST RELEASE ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL DETAINEES,

IN PARTICULAR HERMAN TOIVO A TOIVO SINCE SOME OF THEM WOULD BE INCLUDED IN SWAPO DELEGATION.

(B) SAG MUST, PRIOR TO CONFERENCE, COMMIT ITSELF TO TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL MILITARY, SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES, INCLUDING BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY PERSONNEL. "THE HOW, WHERE AND WHEN THOSE FORCES ARE WITHDRAWN CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION DURING THE TALKS. BUT THE WAR WILL CONTINUE REGARDLESS OF THE CONFERENCE AND WILL ONLY STOP WHEN SOUTH AFRICA WITHDRAWS AND OUR FORCES TAKE OVER," NUJOMA STATED.

(C) PARTIES AT TALKS COULD BE ONLY NAMIBIAN DELEGATION (READ SWAPO SELECTED DELEGATION), SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION (WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE TURNHALLE DELEGATES) AND UN TO CONVENE CONFERENCE AND PROVIDE CHAIRMAN.

3. WHILE DENOUNCING TURNHALLE, NUJOMA SAID SUCH NAMIBIANS WHO "HAD EITHER BEEN MISLED OR BRIBED" SHOULD RENOUNCE "TREACHEROUS ACTIVITIES AND GENUINELY JOIN LIBERATION STRUGGLE." THEY COULD JOIN SWAPO OR REMAIN AS INDIVIDUALS "WORKING WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SWAPO POLICY." "BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. LATER THEY WILL BE TREATED AS TRAITORS AND PUNISHED," NUJOMA THREATENED.

4. NUJOMA SAID BLACK CHURCH LEADERS WOULD CERTAINLY BE INCLUDED IN NAMIBIAN DELEGATION. "THEY ARE TRUE PATRIOTS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE WAGING THE STRUGGLE FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE, THEY ARE NOT OPPORTUNISTS." NUJOMA SAID THAT VORSTER HAD THE REAL POWER, SO THERE WAS NO POINT IN TALKING WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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STOOGES SUCH AS KAPUUU, KLOPPERS AND NDJOBA. VORSTER MUST SEND A SERIOUS DELEGATION. "WE DO NOT WANT ANOTHER ZIMBABWE SITUATION WHERE IAN SMITH IS PLAYING AROUND." NUJOMA CAUTIONED THAT SOME SWAPO OFFICERS THOUGHT NO CONFERENCE WAS NEKAKY, AS IT MIGHT ONLY WASTE TIME. HE WARNED "IF VORSTER IMPOSES AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT, WE WILL FIGHT AND CRUSH THAT GOVERNMENT. WE WILL USE ANYTHING IN OUR POWER TO LIQUIDATE IT PHYSICALLY."

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5. NUJOMA SAID KISSINGER HAD PROPOSED THAT SWAPO MEET IN CONFERENCE WITH TURNHALLE DELEGATES, WITH SAG SENDING BEHIND-THE-SCENES OBSERVER. "WE REJECTED THIS EN TOTO. WE TOLD HIM... TO TELL VORSTER... TO SEND A DELEGATION WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE ON HIS BEHALF. THE THREE PRECONDITIONS WERE AS I MENTIONED (ABOVE).... (KISSINGER) SAID HE WOULD CONTACT US AGAIN, BUT WE NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AND ARE WAITING THE POLICY OF THE NEW (AMERICAN) ADMINISTRATION. WE MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO THE FRONTLINE STATES THAT WE WILL ONLY TAKE PART IF THE THREE PRECONDITIONS ARE MET. THEY AND THE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES FULLY BACKED THIS VIEW, AND THERE IS NOT A SINGLE STATE THAT IS NOT SUPPORTING US ON THAT."

6. NUJOMA CRITICIZED BRITAIN, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL AS US FOR SUPPORTING SOUTH AFRICA. "THIS WAS FOR ECONOMIC REASONS BECAUSE THEY WERE EXPLOITING THE RICHES OF THE COUNTRY BY UNDERPAYING BLACK WORKERS. THIS FINALLY SHOWED THEIR HYPOCRISY WHEN THEY SUPPORTED US IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND INDEPENDENCE. THEY HAVE BEEN BACKING SOUTH AFRICA ALL ALONG AND HAVE NEVER REALLY SUPPORTED US."

7. SWAPO'S POLICY FOR NAMIBIA DID NOT INCLUDE "PUSHING WHITES INTO THE SEA" SAID NUJOMA, BUT "AT THE MOMENT, THEY ARE THE OPPRESSORS. UNLESS THEY IMMEDIATELY DISSOCIATE

THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENT POLITICAL STRUCTURE, THEY CANNOT EXPECT AFTERWARDS TO BE GIVEN A POLITICAL ROLE." SWAPO WOULD NOT TAKE PROPERTY AWAY FROM INDIVIDUALS, BLACK OR WHITE, BUT "ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION BY INDIVIDUAL OWNERS WITH LARGE UNUSED TRACTS OF LAND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED." OWNERSHIP OF HOUSES WOULD BE ALLOWED, BUT NUJOMA REPORTEDLY DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE NATIONALIZATION OF MAJOR COMPANIES OR LAND. SWAPO WOULD ALLOW FREE ELECTIONS ON A NATIONAL BASIS, NUJOMA SAID.

8. RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET INFLUENCE ON SWAPO, NUJOMA SAID HE DID NOT BELONG TO ANY BLOC. SWAPO GETS "LARGE DONATIONS FROM SOVIET RUSSIA AND THE NORDIC STATES, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW THEIR FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES. WE ARE AN AFRICAN PARTY WHICH BELIEVES IN NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT" NUJOMA CONCLUDED.

9. IN COMMENT ON THIS REPORT OF NUJOMA'S POSITION, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER INDICATED THROUGH A SPOKESMAN THAT HIS OWN POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED: HE HAS NO INTENTION OF DEALING WITH SWAPO.

10. COMMENT: NUJOMA HAS VOICED LONGSTANDING POSITION THAT SWAPO WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN DISCUSSING A TRANSFER OF POWER FROM SAG TO SWAPO. HIS STATEMENTS SEEM TO REFLECT A GREATER DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAS MARSHALLED SUPPORT SUFFICIENT
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TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL BY FORCE OF ARMS, HOWEVER LONG IT MAY REQUIRE.
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Message Attributes

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